

What is claimed is:

1                   1.       A system, comprising:  
 2                   a television; and  
 3                   a presence sensitive device;  
 4                   wherein said television has a display screen;  
 5                   wherein said presence sensitive device is operatively disposed in relation  
 6 to said display screen; and  
 7                   wherein said presence sensitive device is operative to determine a selection  
 8 of at least one of a plurality of items displayed on said display screen based upon sensing  
 9 a presence.

1                   2.       The system of claim 1,  
 2                   further comprising:  
 3                   an interface that receives interactive programming content;  
 4                   wherein said interactive programming content is displayed on said display  
 5 screen;  
 6                   wherein input is received from said presence sensitive device; and  
 7                   wherein said input is used to interact with said interactive programming  
 8 content.

1                   3.       The system of claim 1,  
 2                   wherein said television is communicatively coupled with at least one of a  
 3 plurality of content providers.

1                   4.       The system of claim 3,  
 2                   wherein said at least one of a plurality of content providers includes at  
 3 least one of:  
 4                   an Internet web site;  
 5                   a cable television content provider; and  
 6                   a satellite television content provider.

1                   5.       The system of claim 2,  
 2                   wherein said interactive programming content comprises at least one of:  
 3                   an electronic program guide;

4 an electronic program guide for children;  
 5 an on-screen control for television;  
 6 an on-screen control for a displayed cursor;  
 7 an on-screen control for VCR;  
 8 an interactive game;  
 9 interactive educational instruction;  
 10 interactive foreign language instruction; and  
 11 interactive decision making for creating a story.

1 6. The system of claim 1,  
 2 wherein said presence sensitive device provides an input which emulates a  
 3 mouse.

1 7. The system of claim 6,  
 2 wherein said input which emulates a mouse enables children to use the  
 3 web.

1 8. The system of claim 1,  
 2 further comprising a pointing device;  
 3 wherein said pointing device provides an interface for a physically  
 4 impaired person.

1 9. The system of claim 1,  
 2 wherein said presence sensitive device provides an alternate control set for  
 3 remote control.

1 10. The system of claim 2,  
 2 wherein said television provides narration for said interactive  
 3 programming content.

1 11. The system of claim 10,  
 2 wherein said narration comprises text to speech conversion of a book.

1 12. The system of claim 10,  
 2 wherein said television controls tone and/or accent of narration according  
 3 to an input.

1           13.     The system of claim 10,  
2           wherein said television controls speed of narration according to an input.

1           14.     The system of claim 13,  
2           wherein said input is received from a user.

1           15.     The system of claim 1,  
2           wherein said presence sensitive device includes at least one of:  
3           a touch screen;  
4           a capacitive touch screen;  
5           a surface acoustic wave (SAW) touch screen;  
6           a wire resistive touch screen; and  
7           a stylus based selection indication mechanism.

1           16.     The system of claim 1,  
2           wherein said presence sensitive device provides at least one of:  
3           control of cursor movement;  
4           control of a selection rectangle;  
5           control of a navigational aid; and  
6           control of a selection aid.

1           17.     The system of claim 1,  
2           wherein a user communicates with said television via said presence  
3           sensitive device.

1           18.     The system of claim 1,  
2           further comprising:  
3           a remote control device;  
4           wherein said remote control device includes a second display screen;  
5           wherein at least one of a plurality of commands are exchanged between  
6           said remote control device and said television;  
7           wherein said remote control device includes a second presence sensitive  
8           device; and  
9           wherein said second presence sensitive device is operatively disposed in  
10          relation to said second display screen.

1           19.    The system of claim 1,  
2           further comprising:  
3           a device for playing interactive programming content on the television.

1           20.    The system of claim 19,  
2           wherein said device for playing interactive programming content includes  
3   at least one of:  
4           a VCR;  
5           a DVD player;  
6           a CD player;  
7           a PVR;  
8           a Nintendo;  
9           a Playstation;  
10          a set top box; and  
11          a head end computer.

1           21.    The system of claim 19,  
2           wherein said interactive programming content includes at least one of:  
3           an electronic program guide;  
4           an electronic program guide for children;  
5           interactive games;  
6           a children's story book;  
7           an interactive story book, in which a story is created based upon decisions  
8   received from a user;  
9           an educational material; and  
10          foreign language instruction material.

1           22.    A method, comprising:  
2           providing electronic information in an interactive format via a television  
3   system;  
4           displaying text and/or illustration from said electronic information;  
5           providing a narration of said text substantially contemporaneously with  
6   displaying said text; and  
7           receiving a payment for accessing said electronic information;

8                    wherein said payment comprises a rental charge for accessing said  
9        electronic information.

1                    23.     The method of claim 22,  
2                    wherein said electronic information comprises at least one of a plurality of  
3        fields; and  
4                    wherein said at least one of a plurality of fields is disposed to receive  
5        values for identifying characteristics about a viewer.

1                    24.     The method of claim 23,  
2                    wherein said method further comprises:  
3                    populating at least one of said plurality of fields with a name of a child  
4        viewing the electronic information being displayed.

1                    25.     The method of claim 22,  
2                    further comprising:  
3                    taking a picture of a child viewing the electronic information being  
4        displayed; and  
5                    inserting said picture into a story line within said electronic information  
6        being displayed.

1                    26.     The method of claim 22,  
2                    further comprising:  
3                    presenting a problem to be solved in an interactive program content  
4        delivered by a Personal Video Recorder (PVR);  
5                    pausing said interactive program content to go into interactive mode;  
6                    determining an answer to said problem presented; and  
7                    receiving an input comprising a touch of a selected answer.

1                    27.     The method of claim 26,  
2                    further comprising:  
3                    embedding into a broadcast program content at least one of a plurality of  
4        triggers to cause a PVR to pause program;  
5                    allowing a viewer to interact with said program at own pace; and  
6                    continuing to a subsequent part of said program.

1           28.    The method of claim 22,  
2           further comprising:  
3           receiving at least one of a plurality of foreign language audio programs via  
4 an IP channel;  
5           receiving from a viewer a selection of a language of choice; and  
6           receiving both an audio program and said text in said language of choice.

1           29.    The method of claim 28,  
2           further comprising:  
3           selecting audio and text overlays based upon said selection of a language  
4 of choice.

1           30.    The method of claim 28,  
2           further comprising:  
3           tuning said television by receiving a selection made from at least one of a  
4 plurality of on-screen choices.

1           31.    The method of claim 28,  
2           further comprising:  
3           selecting text in an on-screen overlay based upon said selection of a  
4 language of choice.

1           32.    A method,  
2           comprising:  
3           receiving an input comprising a touch; and  
4           using said input in commerce.

1           33.    A method,  
2           comprising:  
3           receiving an input comprising a touch; and  
4           showing a meaning of a word corresponding to a location of said touch.

1           34.    A computer program product, comprising:  
2           code that provides electronic information in an interactive format via a  
3 television system;

4 code that displays text and/or illustration from said electronic information;  
 5 code that provides a narration of said text substantially contemporaneously  
 6 with displaying said text; and  
 7 code that receives a payment for accessing said electronic information;  
 8 wherein said payment comprises a rental charge for accessing said  
 9 electronic information; and  
 10 a computer readable storage medium for holding the code.

1 35. The computer program product of claim 22,  
 2 wherein said electronic information comprises at least one of a plurality of  
 3 fields; and  
 4 wherein said at least one of a plurality of fields is disposed to receive  
 5 values for identifying characteristics about a viewer.

1 36. The computer program product of claim 23,  
 2 wherein said computer program product further comprises:  
 3 code that populates at least one of said plurality of fields with a name of a  
 4 child viewing the electronic information being displayed.

1 37. The computer program product of claim 22,  
 2 further comprising:  
 3 code that takes a picture of a child viewing the electronic information  
 4 being displayed; and  
 5 code that inserts said picture into a story line within said electronic  
 6 information being displayed.

1 38. The computer program product of claim 22,  
 2 further comprising:  
 3 code that presents a problem to be solved in an interactive program content  
 4 delivered by a Personal Video Recorder (PVR);  
 5 code that pauses said interactive program content to go into interactive  
 6 mode;  
 7 code that determines an answer to said problem presented; and  
 8 code that receives an input comprising a touch of a selected answer.

1 39. The computer program product of claim 26,

2 further comprising:  
 3 code that embeds into a broadcast program content at least one of a  
 4 plurality of triggers to cause a PVR to pause program;  
 5 code that allows a viewer to interact with said program at own pace; and  
 6 code that continues to a subsequent part of said program.

1 40. The computer program product of claim 22,  
 2 further comprising:  
 3 code that receives at least one of a plurality of foreign language audio  
 4 programs via an IP channel;  
 5 code that receives from a viewer a selection of a language of choice; and  
 6 code that receives both an audio program and said text in said language of  
 7 choice.

1 41. The computer program product of claim 28,  
 2 further comprising:  
 3 code that selects audio and text overlays based upon said selection of a  
 4 language of choice.

1 42. The computer program product of claim 28,  
 2 further comprising:  
 3 code that tunes said television by receiving a selection made from at least  
 4 one of a plurality of on-screen choices.

1 43. The computer program product of claim 28,  
 2 further comprising:  
 3 code that selects text in an on-screen overlay based upon said selection of  
 4 a language of choice.

1 44. A computer program product,  
 2 comprising:  
 3 code that receives an input comprising a touch;  
 4 code that uses said input in commerce; and  
 5 a computer readable storage medium for holding the code.

1 45. A computer program product,



2 comprising:  
3 code that receives an input comprising a touch;  
4 code that shows a meaning of a word corresponding to a location of said  
5 touch; and  
6 a computer readable storage medium for holding the code.

1 46. An apparatus,  
2 comprising:  
3 one or more handles;  
4 a screen display;  
5 a touch sensitive input device; and  
6 a means for communicating with a set top device;  
7 wherein said touch sensitive device is disposed proximately to said screen  
8 display in order to allow interaction with a program content being displayed via touch.

1 47. The apparatus of claim 46,  
2 wherein said communicating is wireless.

1 48. The apparatus of claim 46,  
2 wherein said screen displays an image that duplicates an image displayed  
3 on a television.

1 49. The apparatus of claim 46,  
2 wherein said touch sensitive input device emulates mouse functions.

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